

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 306640

FOLLOWING BONN 21005 SENT ACTION SECSTATE BUCHAREST BUDAPEST
MOSCOW SOFIA WARSAW USBERLIN BERLIN NATO LONDON PARIS ROME
BRUSSELS THE HAGUE LUXEMBOURG DUBLIN COPENHAGEN VIENNA DEC 14;
REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 21005

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CSCE, CZ, GW

SUBJECT: CSCE: CZECH-GERMAN CON CIONS

REFS: (A) BONN 20745; (B) BONN 20880

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE RECENT BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS IN
BONN, THE FIRST TIME THE CZECHS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN
SUCH TALKS, DID NOT BRING ANY MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS IN
THEIR TRAIN. THE TALKS COVERED ALL ASPECTS OF CSCE.
ON THE BREZHNEV CONGRESSES PROPOSAL, THE CZECHS ARGUED
FOR THE QUICKEST POSSIBLE DECISION TO HOLD THE
CONGRESSES, WITH THE GERMANS INDICATING INTEREST IN
THE SUBSTANCE BUT REFERRING TO THE NEED TO AWAIT THE
REPORT TO THE ECE NEXT SPRING. END SUMMARY.
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1. THE CZECHS AND GERMANS CONFERRED IN BONN ON
DEC. 8-9 ABOUT CSCE. AMB. HANDL HEADED THE CZECH
DELEGATION, WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY MEYER-
LANDRUT IN CHARGE ON THE GERMAN SIDE. FONOFF CSCE
OFFICE DIRECTOR VON GROLL GAVE US THE FOLLOWING

BRIEFING ON THE DISCUSSION. THE CBM PORTION OF THE TALKS WAS REPORTED REF A.

2. GENERAL.

THE CZECHS SAID THEY WANTED TO REALIZE CSCE STEP-BY-STEP WITH BALANCE BETWEEN THE BASKETS AND WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES. THE CZECHS PERCEIVED CSCE AS FACILITATING BILATERAL RELATIONS, ABOVE ALL AMONG NEIGHBORS. THE CZECHS POINTED TO RFE, REVANCHIST MEETINGS AND THE PUBLIC MEDIA IN THE FRG, AND BORDER VIOLATIONS AS THE PRINCIPAL BARRIERS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. AS CONCRETE EXAMPLES OF CZECH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT, HANDL MENTIONED RATIFICATION OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS CONVENTION, BUSINESS CONTACTS, AND SCIENTIFIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION. THE CZECHS SAID THEY WERE WORKING ON THE HCM OF TOURIST TRAVEL, JOURNALISTS, SPORT AND YOUTH EXCHANGES, AND IMPORTATION OF THE WESTERN PRESS. THE GERMAN SIDE PROTESTED AGAINST CONTINUED AND STRONG ANTI-FRG STATEMENTS BY THE CSSR, NOTING THEIR DELETERIOUS EFFECT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE FRG DOES NOT DENY THAT INCIDENTS HAVE MARRED FRG/CSSR RELATIONS. IT JUST QUESTIONS THE USEFULNESS OF THE CZECHS' HARPING ON THEM.

3. BASKET II.

THE CZECHS AGREED TO REVIEW FRG REQUESTS FOR QUICKER PROVISION OF STATISTICS AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION. THEY WILL ALSO REVIEW THE PROBLEM OF COMPULSORY CURRENCY EXCHANGE AND THE DIFFERENT NOTIFICATION TIMES
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FOR EASTERN AND WESTERN TRAVELERS.

4. BREZHNEV CONGRESSES PROPOSAL.

THE CZECHS ADVOCATED THE QUICKEST POSSIBLE DECISION TO HOLD THE CONFERENCES. THE GERMANS SAID THEY WERE INTERESTED IN THE SUBSTANCE, BUT THAT IT WAS TOO EARLY FOR A DECISION ABOUT THE LEVEL AND DATE BEFORE THE PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT TO THE 32ND ANNUAL ECE MEETING IN THE SPRING OF 1977. THE GERMANS ALSO REFERRED TO THE CIEC DIALOGUE AND TO THE NECESSARY INCLUSION OF WEST BERLIN IN COOPERATIVE ENDEAVORS.

5. BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE.

THERE WAS LITTLE DIVERGENCE BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF BOTH SIDES. (BOTH AGREED THAT DEVELOPMENTS AFTER BELGRADE WERE DEPENDENT UPON THE COURSE AND RESULTS OF THE CONFERENCE.

THE CZECHS ASKED ABOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF MEDITERRANEAN STATES. THE FRG RESPONDED IT DID NOT WISH TO BURDEN THE CONFERENCE WITH EXTRA-EUROPEAN PROBLEMS, BUT -- AS IN GENEVA -- THE POSSIBILITY MUST BE GIVEN TO THE NON-PARTICIPATING MEDITERRANEAN STATES TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION.

6. BASKET III.

HUMAN CONTACTS: THE FRG EXPRESSED HOPE THAT RED CROSS TALKS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN JANUARY TO EXAMINE EMIGRATION QUESTIONS, ESPECIALLY THE IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE IN ESTIMATES OF PROSPECTIVE EMIGRANTS. THE CZECHS OBJECTED THAT THEY COULD NOT AND WOULD NOT PUBLICIZE EMIGRATION. THE FRG EMPHASIZED ITS WISH TO BE ABLE TO CONSULT WITH ALL OF THOSE INTERESTED IN EMIGRATING TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC. FRG ALSO WELCOMED RECENT RELEASE OF 68 CHILDREN BY CZECHS SO THAT THEY

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COULD BE REUNITED WITH THEIR PARENTS IN THE FRG.

INFORMATION: THE FRG CRITICIZED THE RESTRICTIVE CZECH VISA ISSUANCE PRACTICES TO JOURNALISTS AS WELL AS CONTINUOUS CZECH CRITICISM OF, AMONG OTHERS, DEFMIN LEBER. THE CZECHS REFERRED TO THE OBLIGATION OF GOVERNMENTS TO INFLUENCE THE MEDIA FOR "TRUTHFUL REPORTING." HERE THEY DISPLAYED THEIR SENSITIVITY TO CHARGES BY EX-CZECH INTELLIGENCE OFFICER FROLICK AGAINST HUSAK AND OTHERS, WHICH WERE BROADCAST ON GERMAN TV. THE EXCHANGE ON RFE IS REPORTED REFTEL (B)

CULTURAL EXCHANGE: THE FRG CONTRASTED THE GOOD RESULTS IN THE ECONOMIC, UNIVERSITY AND FILM AREA WITH AN IMBALANCE IN EXHIBITIONS (8:1) AND GUEST CONCERTS (20:2). THEY MENTIONED DIFFICULTIES WITH SCHOLARSHIPS, BOOK DONATIONS, LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION AND THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO VON GROLL, THE CZECHS ENGAGED IN "STATISTICAL ACROBATICS" AND INDICATED THAT THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT MUST CONFORM TO THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT.

7. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE TALKS THE CZECHS EMPHASIZED THE USEFULNESS OF CSCE CONSULTATIONS AND ADVOCATED THEIR CONTINUANCE.

8. COMMENT: THE CONSULTATIONS BEGAN STIFFLY. HANDL LED OFF WITH A LENGTHY PREPARED STATEMENT WHICH ONLY DEMONSTRATED HIS LACK OF NEGOTIATING EXPERIENCE WITH THE WEST. HIS PRESENTATION SOUNDED SO MUCH LIKE A

UN SPEECH THAT MEYER-LANDRUT COULD NOT RESIST PASSING
NOTES TO VON GROLL ASKING, "WHEN WILL THIS FOOL SHUT
UP?" THINGS WARMED UP OVER LUNCH AND A GOOD, IF NOT
EXCITING, EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ENSUED. BILATERAL ISSUES
KEPT CREEPING IN FROM THE CZECH SIDE, BUT THE FRG WAS
ABLE TO COVER MOST OUTSTANDING CSCE QUESTIONS. VON
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GROLL SAID IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE CZECHS WERE SOME-
WHAT ISOLATED DIPLOMATICALLY AND THAT THEY
APPRECIATED THIS OPPORTUNITY -- THEIR FIRST -- TO CON-
SULT ON CSCE. STOESSEL UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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